

City Council of the City of New Castle
Regular Council Meeting at Town Hall – 201 Delaware Street – New Castle
Tuesday – February 12, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.

Present:

Council President William Barthel
Councilperson John Gaworski
Councilperson Ted Megginson
Councilperson Teel Petty

Absent:

Councilperson John Cochran

Also present: Mayor Donald Reese, Treasurer Janet Carlin, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, City Solicitor Daniel Losco, Lt. Adam Brams, Retired Delaware Senator Dori Connor

Approval of Minutes by Date

A motion was made by Councilperson Gaworski and seconded by Councilperson Megginson to approve the minutes of December 8, December 26, January 8 and January 15. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Carlin presented the report. As of January 31, 2013: Total petty cash on hand, \$1,100; total cash in M&T accounts \$475,290.81; total certificates of deposit, money market and government investment pool \$2,433,891.88. Total cash on hand \$2,909,182.49.

A motion was made by Councilperson Megginson to approve the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Gaworski seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Report from the City Administrator

Administrator Thomas reported the phone system the City and MSC uses is causing problems. It is a dated system and in need of updating. A new system will be purchased from the current contractor, Collins, at the best negotiated price, which includes that the City is eligible to receive State Contract pricing. They will be able to retain the old phones, saving about \$10,000. She apologized to residents for any inconvenience they are experiencing.

Advertisements for the City Administrator/Public Services Director position has been posted on numerous websites with a good response to date. Council members, Council President Barthel, HR/Finance Director Marian Delaney and Administrator Thomas will review applications and develop a pool of potential candidates with Council deciding which candidates to schedule for interviews.

The FEMA application is proceeding well. Project worksheets have been submitted for reimbursement for debris removal, the dock and pre-storm prep. A worksheet is still needed for the walkway at Battery Park (separate from dike). Emergency protective measures will be coordinated by DNREC with the Conservation District. DNREC is handling paperwork for repair work to pre-storm conditions for all three dikes. A dike update meeting will be scheduled soon.

The City has been named a recipient of a Sustainable Strategies for Small Cities and Rural Areas non-monetary technical assistance grant from the EPA. The grant will help with grant planning and updating of the Comprehensive Plan.

The deadline for filing to run for City office is 2/27/13. Absentee ballots will be prepared thereafter. The election will be 4/13/13 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the New Castle Senior Center. Voter registration can be done at the City office during business hours. Extra hours will be added for one weekday night and one Saturday morning. Registration is also available online.

The City Administrator's report was accepted as read.

Lt. Brams informed that Detective Thomas Donlon was unable to attend tonight but will be attending the March City Council meeting. President Barthel said his recognition would take place then.

Approval of Staff Reports

President Barthel accepted the staff reports as presented.

Grant Review

Administrator Thomas presented on behalf of Councilperson Cochran. Grant income for January: SLEAF (law enforcement firearms training simulation system) \$40,000; Municipal Street Aid Funds \$42,707.83. Grant expenditures to pay for road and street repair: Greggo and Ferrara \$117,699.30; DPS Grant for Violent Crime \$421.66; OHS Grant (video systems) \$35,140; Sally Grant \$1,667.36.

Communications

Councilperson Megginson referenced the Public Works Report saying residents are doing a good job with the recycling and yard waste program. He noted more monies could be saved by using the brown cans versus plastic as yard waste containers.

Business from the Floor

No comments from the floor.

Business from the Mayor

Mayor Reese talked about the increase in train traffic generated by the refinery in Delaware City. Concern has been expressed about several crossings being blocked by trains stopping on the tracks. CSX has agreed to a reduction in speed limit to 5 m.p.h. from Delaware Street to Seventh Street. Councilperson Petty has a concern with the large puddle of water that sits near Baldton just over the railroad track.

Business from the Council President

President Barthel wants to schedule a budget meeting at the end of this month. Administrator Thomas proposed the date of Tuesday, 2/26/13, 6 p.m., which will be tentatively scheduled and firmed up soon.

Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution No. 2013-6, recognizing Retired Delaware Senator Dorinda "Dori" Connor for her long term of distinguished service to the City of New Castle City.

Councilperson Petty made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilperson Megginson seconded the motion. The resolution was approved unanimously as read.

Councilperson Petty congratulated Senator Connor on her retirement adding she has been a big part of the City of New Castle and we are proud of her. Councilperson Gaworski said Senator Connor and her late husband, Robert, have always been available to their constituents and we have been blessed over the years.

Councilperson Megginson added his congratulations for her years of service to the state and the City of New Castle. She was a great help with the City's charter change. Council President Barthel said he has enjoyed working with her over the years, specifically with the charter change noting her leadership. She never put politics or elections in front of anything and she put the City and the things she believed in the most before everything. He said her leadership and integrity will be missed and everyone is grateful to her.

Senator Connor addressed the assembly. She said she and her husband have served publicly for over 40 years. She has a full life and is having fun being “Dori” and wished everyone well. (*Standing ovation.*)

New Business

1. Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution No. 2013-7, for the placement request of Bailey’s Dawgs as a vendor operating within the City limits.

Councilperson Megginson made a motion to approve the vendor resolution. Councilperson Petty seconded the motion.

The vendor plans to sell hot dogs, water ice and peanuts. He asked about putting in a concrete pad in the area because the ground is hollowed out. The vendor and Councilperson Megginson will look at the area.

The motion was approved unanimously.

2. Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution No. 2013-8, to set the pay rates for various positions relative to the 2013 New Castle City Election.

Councilperson Petty made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilperson Megginson seconded the motion.

Administrator Thomas said the listed positions are paid. This is an increase in pay but they are working two more hours.

The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Motion, Discussion and Vote on Bank Resolutions to pay to Greggo and Ferrara two invoices and payments for work on the road and street repair contract.

Councilperson Megginson made a motion to approve bank resolution from checking account number 1019-8704 from the general fund for work on the road and street repair contract in the amount of \$117,699.30. Councilperson Petty seconded the motion.

Councilperson Megginson said this is the first payment for work completed 11/28/12. Another payment will be made in March. There are problems with some of the work that is being resolved. Work on Oak Street and 14th Street has not been completed due to weather. We will be over budget because of problems on Ninth Street, in Washington Park and Dobbinsville.

The motion to approve the bank resolution as read was approved by unanimous vote.

4. Motion, Discussion and Vote on Bank Resolutions to pay to Greggo and Ferrara two invoices and payments for work on the road and street repair contract.

Councilperson Gaworski made a motion to approve bank resolution from checking account number 1019-8704 from the general fund for work on the road and street repair contract in the amount of \$146,940.95. Councilperson Petty seconded the motion.

Councilperson Megginson said that problems on 13th Street are being resolved and he believes the City is receiving a quality job.

The motion to approve the bank resolution as read was approved by unanimous vote.

Comments from the Floor

Mayor Reese reported that a base group of people in the City will work with the Jaycees to organize this year's Separation Day events.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Turner

Debbie Turner
Evening Stenographer